

Sample Answer Reading

A reading comprehension activity.

Part 1

Read the answer and
identify the question.

Answer: If a friend were coming here from abroad, I would definitely recommend they take up hockey. It's our national sport, and it's a great way to enjoy the outdoors in the winter. My friends and I learned to skate when we were only five years old, but the sport is good for all ages.

What was the question?

Answer: Well, no, I don't. Let me explain why. That class is not going to help me in the future. I would much rather study science or even get some exercise in P.E. class. People tell us that history is important to learn, but if all we do is sleep in class, there's no actual learning taking place. In my opinion it should be taught better or eliminated.

What was the question?

Answer: That is a great question. When I'm trying to study, I need peace and quiet, but if it's too quiet I'll fall asleep. So I like to study on the park benches of Koganei Park. Koganei Park is located in western-central Tokyo. It's really big, so if you're on a bench in the center of the park, you can't hear cars and trucks. I think it's one of the best places to concentrate.

What was the question?

Answer: Actually I have several favorites, and they have one thing in common: cheese. I especially love pizza and eat it at least twice a week. My friends and I often go to hamburger restaurants, where of course I order cheeseburgers. And for a snack at a coffee shop, what would be better than a piece of cheesecake? Some people say that much cheese is rather excessive, but they're wrong.

What was the question?

Answer: Um, let's see. I think the person who has influenced me the most is Martin Luther King, Jr. Of course you know he's famous for his "I Have a Dream" speech, but in my view, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" is just as good. Um, ah, yeah. It taught me everything I know about why taking action now is important, and why waiting leads to nothing.

What was the question?

Part 2

Identify the structure of the answer.
Choose the best description.

Question: Describe a recent event in your country that people often talk about. Why are people interested in the event? Give details.

Answer: This summer all the talk was about the Olympics. Although the global pandemic meant people weren't allowed to see the events in person, you could see the sports on TV. I think a lot of people get excited watching the best in the world compete, although for me personally, it's just not that interesting. I didn't watch the games at all.

Structure:

A) General information about the public.

B) Contrast between the public and the speaker.

Question: Talk about a happy memory from elementary school. Describe and explain why it made you happy.

Answer: Well, let's see. For me there are two things that stand out in my mind from elementary school. First, I loved the school picnic each September. My mom always made tuna sandwiches. Second, my teacher in 6th grade, Mr. Malm, was an awesome guy. He let us choose how we wanted to study as long as we were serious. Those are both happy memories.

Structure:

A) One example explained in detail.

B) Two examples each briefly explained.

Question: Think of a very intelligent person that you know. Describe the person and why you think he or she is intelligent.

Answer: One of the most intelligent people I know is Ms. Sato. Many years ago there were some students causing problems, and she did a great job of setting goals. She had the perfect way of saying, “This is the kind of person I hope you’ll become.” The kids heard her words, and they improved. It was amazing to see.

Structure:

- A) One detailed example showing they’re intelligent.
- B) Several reasons why they are intelligent.

Question: People often communicate using their phone. Which do you prefer, telephone calls or text messages? Why?

Answer: Well, in my view telephone calls are better than texts. You just can't tell what someone is feeling when you're only looking at characters on a screen. Even emoticons don't really solve this. Over the phone, we can quickly communicate, and we know that the other person hears what we want to say.

Structure:

A) A long explanation supporting phone calls.

B) A reason against texts and a reason for phone calls.

Question: Suppose your friend can't sleep well at night because the neighbors are too loud. What advice would you give?

Answer: Ah yes, a loud neighbor. First, I recommend banging on the walls. Some people just don't know how loud they are. Next, try leaving a note in their mailbox. Finally, just call the cops. The cops get paid to deal with people like this. Of course no solution is guaranteed to work, but these are all worth trying.

Structure:

A) Several actions to take.

B) Sharing an experience and suggesting an action.